

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05

/064 W

----- 115601

R 121436Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8516

INFO /AMCONSUL ASMARA 7181

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 3130

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJECT: IS FOREIGN MINISTER ON THE SKIDS?

1. EMBASSY CURRENTLY HEARING NEW SPATE OF RUMORS THAT FONMIN KIFLE WODAJO IS ABOUT TO BE REPLACED. WE LACK ANY COLLATERAL TO SUPPORT THESE RUMORS BUT FEEL COMPELLED TO BRING THEM TO THE DEPT'S ATTENTION. ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL THAT THIS RUMOR WAS WIDELY REPEATED A FEW MONTHS EARLIER. ONE SOURCE CONTENTS THAT KIFLE WAS SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL TO PEKING WITH ECONOMIC DELEGATION CURRENTLY VISITING PRC BUT WAS YANKED OFF THE AIRPLANE IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO ITS DEPARTURE AND TOLD THAT HE MUST BE HERE WHEN HIS REPLACEMENT WAS NAMED. SPECULATION AS TO HIS REPLACEMENT CURRENTLY CENTERS ON DR. FITIGEW TADESSE, ETHIOPIAN CONGEN WITH RANK OF AMB TO TFAI, AND AN UNNAMED DEPARTMENT HEAD IN MOFA WHO HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM USSR. OTHERS ALSO BEING MENTIONED INCLUDE ETHIOPIAN AMB TO KENYA MENGHISTU DESTA.

2. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF RECENT OUSTER OF SEVEN CABINET

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MINISTERS, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT SPECULATION AS TO NEW MINISTERIAL

RESHUFFLES CONTINUES. INCREASINGLY LEFTISH TONE OF EPMG MEDIA
WOULD ALSO FUEL SPECULATION THAT MINISTERS MOST SENSITIVELY
INVOLVED WITH ETHIOPIA'S U.S. TIE MUST BE ON WAY OUT. IT IS
INTERESTING, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAVE NOT AGAIN HEARD MAJOR SISAY
HABTE, DIRG FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MENTIONED AS
KIFLE'S REPLACEMENT, AS WAS COMMON PREVIOUSLY. ONE RUMOR WHICH
WE ARE NOT RPT NOT INCLINED TO CREDIT IS THAT DR. ESHETU CHOLE
WILL BE NAMED FONMIN. SPECULATION ABOUT REPLACEMENT OF DEFENSE
MINISTER AYALEW MANDEFRO IS ALSO BEING BANDIED ABOUT
BUT LESS INTENSIVELY. IN ANY CASE, RUMORS OF THIS TYPE SEEM
LIKELY TO IMPINGE ADVERSELY ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THOSE MINISTERS
WHO ARE WIDELY PERCEIVED AS ON THE WAY OUT.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERS (DIPLOMATS), PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ADDIS03130
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760095-0571
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760369/aaaacieu.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IS FOREIGN MINISTER ON THE SKIDS?
TAGS: PINT, ET, (WODAJ0, KIFLE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006